



**Appropriations Committee  
Public Hearing  
March 25, 2022  
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation  
Testimony In Support of  
S.B. 452 An Act Concerning the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund**

Kuweeqáhsun Neetôpawak (Good morning friends),

Today I write to lend my support for S.B. 452 An Act Concerning the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund which provides \$146 million annually to the grant fund nearly tripling its current size. The bill also provides \$10 million for a statewide marketing campaign, and allocates \$3,000 to each state recognized tribe.

From the inception of the slots deal with Governor Weicker back in 1993, it has been a priority for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation to have dollars from the agreement directly allocated to all of the cities and towns in the state of Connecticut. As a small sovereign nation, we understand all too well what it takes to run a local government and that every dollar counts when it comes to funding critical programs and services. With the overwhelming bipartisan support from across the state we have received over the years for our economic initiatives, we want to make sure that the state's municipalities share in the success of our venues. At its height in the year 2000, the Pequot fund distributed \$135 million to towns all throughout the state. For a history of payments made under the fund, please see the link [here](#).

During times of deficit over the years, revenue from the Pequot fund was reallocated to support other general fund necessities cutting the grant program down to \$50 million and leaving many towns with no supplemental dollars at all under the formula.

With the state's unprecedented surplus and new revenues being generated by the expansion of sports betting and internet gaming in every part of the state, we believe the time has come to restore that funding and to honor the original intent of the agreement for all to benefit. In addition, restoring the fund to \$146 million will still leave significant gaming revenue going into the state's general fund. To protect the new allocation in the future, S.B. 452 prohibits any reductions unless the Governor submits an emergency certification that is approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the legislature. We believe this is the right course for the legislature and a reflection of a commitment made 30 years ago this year.

We remain grateful for the decades of partnership between our two governments.

Kutaputush (Thank You)

Rodney Butler  
Tribal Chairman